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SECURITY INFORMATION
AUGUST 1952

BGFRIEND

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ALBANIA

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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A. Mission

See Sections II and III, Part II of the "Country Plan for Albania" for a discussion of the cold war missions and tasks.

B. Accomplishments

(1) Paramilitary

a. Apple Team. On 4 August 1952 a resupply and body drop to the Apple Team was successfully completed. During this mission Halil Branitza, original member of the team who collapsed while crossing the border, rejoined the team. A W/T message from the team reported his safe arrival. Other W/T messages indicate that the team is still safe and continuing operations.

b. Willow Team. This team was successful in establishing a chain of dead drops for the passing of intelligence. They brought out with them when they exfiltrated on 9 July 1952 several newspapers, samples of currency, postage stamps, local stationery and three rolls of film taken of subjects having propaganda value. See the Intelligence Section of this report for a summary of the debriefing of this team and the debriefing of the friend who was brought out with them. This team was re-infiltrated on 25 August.

c. Red Team. No word on Red Team was received during the month of August. It is assumed that they are still active in Northern Albania.

d. Cedar Team. A report on the attempted infiltration of the Cedar Team on 22 July 1952 has been received. One of the two members of this team lost all feeling in his left leg after one and a half hours walk toward the Albanian

frontier. He was

* Obligations reported for July for this project were erroneously reported. The figure shown here in the August report reflects the true picture as of 31 August 1952.

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frontier. He was provided with a donkey to ride but after four hours more of travel it became apparent that he could go no further. The extremely difficult terrain being traversed caused the leg condition. The other team member volunteered to complete the infiltration alone but since he was unfamiliar with the area this was not permitted. [

] is now endeavoring to find two men to replace the disabled team member. The Cedar Team will operate in the same area as that in which the Throttler Team and the British Scrutiny Team were. It is therefore planned to wait until late September to infiltrate Cedar Team when it is hoped this area will have cooled off.

e. THROTTLER TEAM. This team, formerly reported by OSO, was infiltrated into the Sarande area on 19 July. Because of the extreme security measures taken against the British Scrutiny Team, operating in the same area, Throttler was forced to exfiltrate on 4 August, after cashing their radio and most of their supplies. As the team was eager to return, and operational conditions seemed favorable, Throttler was reinfiltred on 19 August, taking mostly food to cache for an emergency. Because other former OSO agent operations are not included and were formerly accounted for in a different manner, Throttler Team has been omitted from the team tabulation below.

f. British Teams.

1. Scrutiny Team. The British Scrutiny Team exfiltrated overland to Greece on 2 August 1952. The team was on the run during the whole of its stay in Albania and was engaged in a fire fight in the Delvina area, alerting the whole district. We have been advised by the field that, contrary to our belief, a FIEND agent did not accompany this team. Our agent was loaned to the British to train and brief the team but did not actually infiltrate with it. In order to balance the record this man is shown as an exfiltrate in the chart below since he was shown as having infiltrated in June. No debriefing has been received.

2. Sambo Team. The British Sambo Team, which was infiltrated into the Berat area by sea on the night of 20-21 July 1952, exfiltrated overland about 10 August. The British representative in Athens believes that the team was forced to exfiltrate because of the state of alarm created by searches of widespread areas by the security forces following the BGFIEND 26 July leaflet raid and the 4 August resupply mission to the Apple Team. No report of this team's debriefing has been received.

Item	Current No.	Previous No.	Cumulative
Teams	0	0	11
Infiltrates (1 to Apple Team)	65	0	55-54

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Exfiltrates (See note above)	1	7	24
Active (presently in Yugoslavia)	0	0	0
Active (presently in Albania)	8	8	812
Defected to Yugoslavia	0	0	2
Captured	0	0	4
Killed	0	0	9
Status Unknown	0	0	3

g. The supply mission to the Apple Team on 4 August was successful and 1,400 pounds of supplies, including one RS-1 radio, were dropped. The team acknowledged receipt of this material.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Supply Mission	1	1	18
Supply Missions Successful	1	1	7
Total Weight	1,400#	Unreported	5 tons plus

(2) Political

a. No report has been received from Messrs. Hasan Dosti, Nuci Kotta and Selim Damani, who represented Albania at the Lawyer's Congress held in Berlin from 25 July to 1 August. Reports from other sources indicate that the Congress was successful and will be repeated in October.

Mr. Dosti and Mr. Kotta are presently in Rome taking part with other members of the Executive Committee in discussions on the reorganization and broadening of NCFA.

b. Psychological Warfare. The BGFIEND transmitter located near Athens continued its regular broadcast schedule during August.

c. Publications

1. Shqipëria, the NCFA semi-monthly newspaper printed in Rome, went to press and was distributed on schedule.

2. 50,000 copies

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2. 50,000 copies of the 14th issue of the miniature edition of Shqipëria were printed in Washington and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania. In addition, a special order of 360,000 copies of the miniature newspaper was completed for the British and shipped to London.

3. We received no report of publications of the News Bulletin this month.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Shqipëria (issues)	2	2	47
Miniature Shqipëria (issues)	1	1	14
News Bulletin	0	1	10

d. In view of the ban imposed on propaganda supply drops as a result of the Soviet B/W campaign, no such drops were made over Albania during August. We are awaiting a decision on our request that this ban be lifted. An Albanian who exfiltrated with the Willow Team stated that the population did not believe the Communist charges that the food had been poisoned.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Prop/Supply Cans	0	0	3100
Flour Bags	0	0	1000

e. On the night of 26-27 August the British completed a successful leaflet raid during which an unspecified number of leaflets and miniature copies of Shqipëria were dropped. In addition leaflets were dropped as a deception measure during the Apple Team resupply mission.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Leaflet	275,000	1,047,000	5,680,000

f. Political Developments

Since 20 August two general meetings, led by the American and British representatives in Rome, have been held with members of the NCFA, during which the British-American plan for the reorganization and broadening of the Committee was explained. In addition, there have been many meetings with individuals and the various party groups. So far there has been no serious objection to the reorganization phase, which is being dealt with first, although no concrete agreements have been reached. Discussions will continue at a pace calculated to prevent any break-up of the Committee over this matter.

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King Zog has

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King Zog has requested ☐ to come to Alexandria to discuss important problems connected with Albania and surrounding countries. ☐ will depart in early September for Egypt.

During August, reports were received from Istanbul that negotiations between representatives of King Zog and Tito, originally scheduled to take place in Turkey in June, were to reopen at Skoplje, Yugoslavia on 15 August with Irfan Bey Ohrida, Avni Daralla and Lutfi Satfet Tozan representing Zog. Later reports stated that neither Ohrida nor Daralla had received a visa and that Tozan, who appeared to have lost interest, could offer no explanation. However, on 18 August, both Ohrida and Daralla received Yugoslav visas and on 28 August, Tozan, Ohrida and Daralla departed by air for Skoplje. It is reported that they have been instructed to obtain a guarantee of full respect for the integrity and independence of Albania, to set up a personal meeting between King Zog and a representative of Tito at any place which is acceptable to Tito to discuss and settle basic issues, and to demonstrate a sincere and ardent desire to collaborate with Tito.

Our representative in Rome reported receipt of what purported to be a Yugoslav plan for the invasion of Albania. The plan is said to have originated with Ndue Pjeter Gjonmarkaj in Pristina and to have been delivered to Gjon Markagjoni, BKKI leader in Rome. The plan calls for the use of 6,000 Albanian exiles, which it is claimed have been mobilized; they will be deployed in six operating sectors. The sector commanders have not been told the date of activation although they have been led to believe it will be soon. The operation is to be completed within ten days of activation. This report has not been received from any other source. However, a W/T message from the Apple Team, sent as a result of instructions carried to the team by Halil Branitza to report on Yugoslav operations, confirms previous reports of Yugoslav team activity aimed at the annexation of Albania. The message confirms that operations are carried out as a League of Albanian Refugees activity and are directed by Dushan Mugesha, one of Tito's two personal representatives to the Albanian Communists during the war.

g. Intelligence

Our last three teams which exfiltrated from Albania all agree that the population has almost reached the point where serious overt action against the present regime is possible with sufficient outside encouragement.

An AP dispatch from Rome on 19 August, which quoted Radio Moscow, stated that Premier Enver Hoxha had been purged. No confirmation of this report has been received. Our field stations are checking all possible sources for additional information.

The Willow Team

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The Willow Team debriefing emphasized the team's need for local currency to support its operations. Willow also confirmed that the only form of identification document required is the Leter Njoftim, the format of which has not been changed. Willow reported that radios are now allowed among the population and stated that no permission is required for travel although travel is infrequent since all travel is viewed with suspicion. The friend, Ali Petrit, who exfiltrated with the Willow Team reported that in his area no organized resistance groups exist although there are a number of anti-Communists who can be counted on to assist any teams who might operate in that district. The population is convinced that the present regime can be overthrown only with outside help. Petrit stated that the people distrust both Yugoslav and Greek territorial aspirations but believe that the U.S. will safeguard Albania's borders. The population does not believe the Communist propaganda about the help being received from the USSR. Petrit confirmed that the Lek is the only money in circulation and that the possession of gold is highly dangerous and a closely guarded secret; the method of receipt of any dollars exchanged must be strictly accounted for. There is a shortage of all food in Albania and many of the people believe that most of the food goes to Russia.

(3) Economic

Negative

(4) Support

a. Training. Three prospective agents were sent to Germany for W/T training on 1 August.

b. Clearances.

<u>Clearances Requested</u>	<u>Clearances Granted</u>	<u>Clearances Outstanding</u>
9	2	16

c. Recruitment. Since it developed that administrative complications made in undesirable to send Captain John Ellis, an Air Force officer, recruited as commander of the Albanian Guard Company, to Germany, for assignment with EUCON, we have asked the Military Personnel Division to obtain an Army officer for this duty.

The Albanian speaker being considered for duty in Greece as an interrogator and translator will not be employed as his assessment showed he was not well qualified for this type of duty.

We have asked the Personnel Division to recruit for us a secretary who will be assigned to the FIEND staff in Rome.

d. Administration.

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d. Administration. Flend Field Chief, [] r, is now in the U.S. on home leave and will be in Washington for consultation on 2 September. Sgt. Jadloewski, who will be assigned as NCO at the Albanian Guard Company, reported for duty and is now in training.

C. Reactions.

The Pine Team reported that the clandestine radio programs were intelligible in the Kukes area during the two months period the Team was in that section. The Willow Team stated they had been told of an Albanian in Durres who heard the programs. Neither team could furnish any information on the reaction of the people to the broadcasts, although the Pine Team stated their own morale was raised by the broadcasts.

Ali Petrit, the friend who exfiltrated with the Willow Team, stated that the people of Albania feel that their only hope for liberation is the NCFA backed by the Americans. He reported that the NCFA leaflets are passed from hand to hand and are a great morale factor. The people are required to pick up the leaflets and turn them over to the authorities and anyone found in possession of a leaflet is arrested and jailed for at least three months. However, Petrit stated that in his area the leaflets had not caused hardship to the point where the leaflet raids are not welcomed. He had heard of the food drops and reported that the people did not believe the Communist allegations that the food had been poisoned.

D. Conclusions

(1) Favorable conditions of which advantage was taken:

Negative.

(2) Problems Encountered:

We have now been advised by [] that the Albanian Lek situation in Yugoslavia is very tight and that, although the [] has promised to make every effort to obtain some for our use, the [] are reported to lack Lek for their own operations. All of our teams have reported that Lek are absolutely essential for the successful performance of a mission. We are now in a most embarrassing position trying to explain to our agents why we are unable to provide this need. We have requested the [] and [] stations to attempt to obtain Lek for us through their official liaison channels but it is feared the results will again be disappointing and that our operations for the balance of this year will continue to be seriously handicapped by lack of currency.

(3) Deficiencies noted and corrective action taken:

Negative.

(4) Lessons learned:

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(4) Lessons learned:

Negative

(5) Courses or Courses of action to be taken:

It is planned to continue efforts to reorganize and then to broaden the NCFA, taking such measures as are necessary to prevent the withdrawal from the NCFA of any party. The intentions of the Yugoslavs are under close appraisal and discussions are taking place with a view toward reaching some agreement with them with respect to Albania.

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